



Early Care and Learning Cross Systems Task Force

Early care and learning initiatives throughout the state have had a positive impact on Idaho families by supporting the role of parents and helping children become healthier and better prepared to enter the school system and avoid the judicial system later in life. The first few years form the foundation that impacts the effectiveness of all subsequent efforts to maximize a child's potential.

Governor and Mrs. Kempthorne have provided foundational support for many early care and learning initiatives, including the establishment of the Early Care and Learning Cross Systems Task Force (ECLCSTF). The ECLCSTF builds on the recommendations of the 2000 Early Learning Legislative Task Force, as well the summary from the Northwest Early Learning Summit in June 2002, and the final report from the early learning subcommittee of the Governor's Coordinating Council for Families and Children in 2002. All three reports, as well as reports from other organizations substantiate the need for coordination across all systems that serve young children.

Task Force Vision: All of Idaho's children will have early access to healthy and safe learning environments in their homes, communities and schools.

Task Force Mission: To plan, develop, and implement a sustainable statewide framework for the coordination and development of a family and community based early care and learning system that supports quality, continuity, and collaboration among state and community programs.

The Task Force will be responsible for developing a sustainable and coordinated statewide plan to achieve mutually defined goals for early care and learning with evidence-based outcomes and approval and support from stakeholders, as well as the Governor. Goals to help develop this statewide plan include:

- establish an ongoing communication network between state agencies, policymakers, families, stakeholders and communities for the purpose of planning and implementation of a coordinated system of early care and learning in Idaho
- develop multi-agency state partnerships among critical stakeholders
- compile resources and identify information on the current best practices in early childhood systems building
- provide a comprehensive statewide mapping of existing early care and learning programs and resources, as well as existing gaps
- support partnerships to align current initiatives in the support of a comprehensive system of early childhood professional development
- develop a powerful message to increase public awareness of quality early care and learning programs as a critical part of the foundation to promote healthy families and communities
- align policy and funding streams to develop and support integrated early care and learning system development

The Early Care And Learning Cross Systems Task Force is comprised of representatives from: the Office of the Governor, state agencies, parents, legislators, higher education, judicial system, State Head Start Collaboration, healthcare, child care providers, Easter Seals, faith-based organizations, Success by 6, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, early literacy programs, and other community-based champions for children. .